### Suggested MassParks Hikes!

### **Mount Tom State Reservation**

125 Reservation Rd, Holyoke, MA 01040, 413 534-1186

To help you plan your visit to Mount Tom, we offer the following suggested hike and ride routes that we think visitors might enjoy. **Introductory hikes** are relatively short and appropriate for most users, including families with children. **Signature hikes** are recommended trail experiences that may be longer or more difficult, but that highlights some of the best features of this State Park.

# Introductory Hike Bray Lake Loop

Trailhead: Park at the Bray Lake lot off Reservation Road. Lat/Long: 42.268893, -72.616608

Distance: 0.6 mi - Inner Loop Trail, Difficulty: Easy

**Brief Description:** Begin on the Univeral Access trail. Continue on to the Inner Bray Loop trail to the bridge overlooking Bray Brook. Return for an easy hike or continue to follow the Inner Bray Loop trail which becomes a moderate hike after the bridge.

## Signature Hike Goat Peak

Trailhead: Park at the rotary between Reservation and Christopher Clark roads, or at the Hampden

Fields parking lot. **Lat/Long:** 42.267455, -72.636411 **Distance:** 2.4 miles round trip, **Difficulty:** Moderate

**Brief Description:** From the Stone House, walk down Reservation Road to the Hampden Field loop for the white-blazed New England Trail. Follow the white blazes to the benches at Goat Peak summit. Walk down the hill to the hawk sign to find trails leading to Goat Peak tower. For a loop you can return via the paved Goat Peak road, turning left at the T.



### Signature Hike

### **NET to DOC to Quarry Trail Loop**

**Trailhead:** Begin at the NET Trailhead on Reservation Road, just east of Christopher Clark Road.

Distance: 2.0 miles round trip, Difficulty: Moderate

**Brief Description:** Hike south following the white blazes up to the ledges and overlooks with views of the Connecticut River Valley and Berkshires. Continue to the intersection with the D.O.C. Trail. Turn left and take it down to the Quarry Trail, turning left again, and back to the NET.

#### **Things to Remember:**

- **Time, distance, difficulty:** <u>average</u> hiker pace is estimated at 1.5 miles per hour. Most distances are <u>round-trip</u>. Plan conservatively, start early. Be aware of weather and sunset. Trail difficulty ratings based on ruggedness and gradient are *easy, moderate, or difficult*.
- Wear weather appropriate clothing, layer for temperature changes. Apprpriate footware is a must. Trails can be wet.
- Parking at trailheads: Parking fees may apply. Space may be limited. Be courteous to avoid blocking in others. Do not leave valuables in your car.
- Bring a map, and share your plans with someone.
- **Drinking water** is usually not available. Bring plenty! Trailside sources should be treated.
- **Stay on designated trails:** Follow painted blazes and signs if available. Double blazes indicate an intersection or direction change.
- Pace & group size: keep your group together; hike only as fast as your group's slowest hiker or rider. Limit group size to 12 people or fewer to lessen impacts.
- Carry-in, carry-out all trash: Leave No Trace outdoor ethics are strongly encouraged. For more information visit <a href="http://www.lnt.org/programs/principles.php">http://www.lnt.org/programs/principles.php</a>
- Pets are generally permitted on 10-foot maximum leash and under at all times. Please clean up after your pet and dispose of all waste outside of park. Be aware of local park rules and that not all users appreciate encountering pets, even when friendly.
- Be aware that some trails are not well marked.
- **Be aware of hunting seasons** and wear blaze orange when appropriate. For season info visit: http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/regulations/abstracts/hunting\_dates.pdf